

US009410823B2

(12) United States Patent

Widmer et al.

(54) SYSTEMS, METHODS, AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTION OF METAL OBJECTS IN A

(71) Applicant: QUALCOMM Incorporated, San

PREDETERMINED SPACE

Diego, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: Hanspeter Widmer, Wohlenschwil

(CH); Markus Bittner, Sarmenstorf (CH); Lukas Sieber, Olten (CH); Marcel Fischer, Boniswil (CH)

(73) Assignee: QUALCOMM Incorporated, San

Diego, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 131 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 13/791,365

(22) Filed: Mar. 8, 2013

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0015522 A1 Jan. 16, 2014

Related U.S. Application Data

- (60) Provisional application No. 61/671,498, filed on Jul. 13, 2012.
- (51) Int. Cl.

 B60L 1/00 (2006.01)

 G01S 13/04 (2006.01)

 (Continued)
- (52) U.S. Cl.

(10) **Patent No.:**

US 9,410,823 B2

(45) **Date of Patent:**

Aug. 9, 2016

(58) Field of Classification Search

CPC H04B 5/0037; H04B 10/807; G01S 13/02; G01S 13/931; G01N 27/72; G01N 27/82 USPC 324/302, 331, 463, 228, 232, 259, 260, 324/263, 529, 167

See application file for complete search history.

(56) References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,027,303 A 4,527,153 A 5/1977 Neuwirth et al. 7/1985 Suzuki et al. (Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 101232311 A 7/2008 CN 102548789 A 7/2012 (Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Machine translation. WO 2011006876A2, Wechlin Mathias.* (Continued)

Primary Examiner — Patrick Assouad
Assistant Examiner — Taqi Nasir
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP

(57) ABSTRACT

This disclosure provides systems, methods and apparatus for detecting foreign objects. In one aspect an apparatus for detecting a presence of an object in a magnetic field is provided. The apparatus includes a power circuit configured to generate the magnetic field and transfer power wirelessly at a level sufficient to power or charge a load via the magnetic field. The apparatus further includes a detection circuit configured to transmit signals and detect, based on a reflection of the transmitted signals, a frequency of vibration of the object caused by the magnetic field.

27 Claims, 32 Drawing Sheets

